

REMARKS

Claims 27-43 and 47 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 27-34 and 47 would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form and that claims 35-43 are allowable over the prior art. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.


Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten allowable claim 27 as an independent claim incorporating the language of claims 24 and 26; allowable claim 28 as an independent claim incorporating the language of claim 24; allowable claim 29 as an independent claim incorporating the language of claim 24; and allowable claim 47 as an independent claim incorporating the language of claim 45. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 27-34, 35-43 and 47 are all allowable.

The Examiner maintained his rejection of claims 24, 26, 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over Teirstein (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,666).

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner, in the sole interest of advancing prosecution of this application, Applicant has cancelled all of the rejected claims.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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